CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 31 August 1989, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. El Ghali Benhima (Morocco)

GE.89-63253/1041B

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The 531st plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament is called to order.

In accordance with its programme of work, today the Conference will consider and adopt reports from its ad hoc subsidiary bodies, as well as its annual report to the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly. As I announced at Tuesday's plenary meeting, I will put the reports of the ad hoc committees before the Conference for adoption in the order in which they were introduced by their chairmen. I now propose that we proceed to the adoption of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons, which is contained in document CD/952. Are there any delegations wishing to speak before we adopt the report of the Ad hoc Committee?

If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the report.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Are there any delegations wishing to speak after the adoption of the report? I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom.

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): As this is the first time for me to take the floor this month, Mr. President, may I begin by congratulating you on your presidency and the way you have guided this last part of the session? You have brought great fairness and diplomatic skill to what is not always an easy task, and I much appreciate this.

I should like to offer some brief comments on the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons. In his statement at the opening of the summer session my Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Waldegrave, reiterated the commitment of the British Government to a comprehensive, global and effectively verifiable ban on chemical weapons, and underlined the need for a clear, practical problem-solving approach to remove the remaining obstacles. He stressed the importance attached by the United Kingdom to the achievement of such a ban as early as possible and the need for our approach to be marked by thoroughness and hard work.

The summer session, like its predecessor, has I think been to a large extent conducted in that spirit. The past year has been one of intense activity in these negotiations. The Paris Declaration urged us to redouble our efforts and we have done so. Our agenda has enabled us to consider the whole range of problems still outstanding. Many of us have conducted trial inspections. During the summer session my own authorities have submitted a report on our two practice challenge inspections of military installations - part of a longer series of challenge trials - and also a report on our civil national trial inspection. The result of all this work has been a good deal of solid progress. New issues have been developed, long-standing ones refined and the structure of the future convention has become clearer. Some of this progress is reflected in the report before us. More of it will, I trust, appear in the report to emerge from the inter-sessionals.

(Miss Solesby, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

It would of course be wrong to feel satisfied with our work. A number of difficult problems still remain to be solved, including some major aspects of our convention. Verification remains the top priority, where much has been achieved but much more remains to be done particularly as regards challenge and ad hoc inspection. The rate of progress in our negotiations sometimes seems too slow. But we are steadily increasing the areas of convergence of view.

We must sustain our efforts. The inter-sessionals should enable us to develop further a number of the items on which we have worked over the past year so that they can be brought into appendix I or II. To achieve this we shall have to focus our attention on those matters which hold out most promise of early agreement. We welcome the proposals on this given us by the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee. We now all have a basis for work in our capitals during the coming weeks so that we can return to the inter-sessionals well prepared.

We hope that we shall come to these inter-sessionals further strengthened by a positive outcome to the bilateral consultations between the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as to the Government/Industry Conference against Chemical Weapons in Canberra.

An encouraging aspect of this year's session has been the increased involvement in the negotiations by representatives of States not members of the Conference on Disarmament. Their presence here has given our work a wider perspective. We believe that, as called for in the Paris Declaration, all States should be free to participate in the negotiations as observers if they wish. I look forward to the participation of still larger numbers of such States.

We all owe a great deal to our Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, Ambassador Morel, for the leadership he has given - for his energy, his enthusiasm, and his diplomatic and negotiating skills. My delegation much appreciates the very considerable contribution he has made. Our thanks go also to the hard-working chairmen of the working groups: Mr. Lüdeking of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Gomaa of Egypt, Mr. Sood of India, Mr. Molander of Sweden and Dr. Krutzsch of the German Democratic Republic; as well as to Ambassador Hyltenius of Sweden and Dr. Rautio of Finland for their work as chairmen of their special groups. We have learned with great pleasure that Ambassador Hyltenius is to be the next Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee, and we much look forward to working closely with him. My thanks also go to the secretariat for all their dedicated hard labour. Certainly the report we have just adopted would not have been possible without them. And lastly, three distinguished ambassadors are leaving us very soon, Ambassador van Schaik of the Netherlands, Ambassador Yamada of Japan and Ambassador Fan of China - all three much respected colleagues whom we shall miss, and I should like to offer them my best wishes for the future.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom for her comments and for her kind words addressed to the Chair. I now propose that we take up for adoption the report of the Ad hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, which is contained in document CD/954. Are there any delegations wishing to take the floor now? I see none. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the report.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Are there any delegations wishing to take the floor following the adoption of the report? I see there are none.

We must now adopt document CD/955 concerning the report of the Ad hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament. Are there any delegations wishing to speak before we proceed to adopt the report of the Committee? I see none. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the report.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): Are there any delegations wishing to take the floor following the adoption of the report? I see there are none.

We have thus completed our consideration of the reports of the ad hoc committees to the Conference. Are there any delegations which wish to speak now? I give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador van Schaik.

Mr. van SCHAIK (Netherlands): First of all, Mr. President, I wish to congratulate you on your presidency. This is the first time I have spoken this month. I also wish you well in the remaining hours, if not days, of your presidency. We have great confidence that you will successfully conclude the discussions on the remaining issues that are still unresolved. I also wish to thank Ambassador Bayart of Mongolia and his colleagues for the excellent work they have done under their presidency last month. This is the last opportunity I have to address the Conference because it is the last day I will be here in Geneva, and I hope you will allow me to say a few personal words.

The more than five years I have spent in Geneva were for me fascinating, because of developments both inside the CD and outside. I had the privilege to be present in a period during which the arms control and disarmament process entered - one could say - a completely new phase, a period in which on-the-spot verification, an issue of fundamental political importance, is no longer an insurmountable hurdle - in particular between East and West. Even better, it is increasingly becoming a rather technical problem, albeit a complex one, that in principle is solvable. This transformation in our thinking will allow us to address specific arms control and disarmament measures in a way which was previously inconceivable. We are witnesses of

(Mr. van Schaik, Netherlands)

that process now in bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations. Its importance cannot be underestimated, especially when we look at its longer-term perspective. We may be on the brink of a new disarmament era.

Of course, here in the CD we have had our ups and downs, and up to now results have simply been too modest. The overall evolutionary trend, however, is encouraging. If it prevails, debates will become increasingly technical. For some this might perhaps be less spectacular than the fireworks that accompanied our dialogue in earlier years. But I firmly believe that, in the end, it will be far more constructive and productive. It will also impose another working style and working habits. An approach, which, in fact, is far distant from the quarrels unrelated to work that, up to this day, unfortunately absorb too much of our energy and time.

In my previous statements I have put forward some ideas on the organization of our work, and I shall not repeat them now. But I do hope that our approach will become more business-like. Let us call a spade a spade and not waste too much time on matters that, at least at this moment, are simply not within our reach. It is only step by step that global disarmament will earn the place it deserves amidst other - bilateral and regional - actions.

This period has also been fascinating and gratifying for the friendship and co-operation I have encountered from all sides. I thank colleagues for the kind words addressed to me. The warmth in personal relations is a unique feature of the CD, which makes the work more gratifying, in spite of moments of personal frustration. I have admired the excellent contributions and the dedication to the work of colleagues and all others directly concerned. I thank the secretariat for their essential efforts to "get things going", which incidentally are not always sufficiently rewarded. I also thank the interpreters and translators. It is with great sadness that I say farewell to you all. But I keep in mind the words of Baudelaire in "Le voyage" (Les fleurs du mal):

"Mais les vrais voyageurs sont ceux-là seuls qui partent
Pour partir; coeurs légers, semblables aux ballons,
De leur fatalité jamais ils ne s'écartent,
Et, sans savoir pourquoi, disent toujours: allons!"

I wish you well, I wish the CD well. See you soon in New York.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank Ambassador van Schaik for his statement and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. The Ambassador of the Netherlands, Robert van Schaik, has been entrusted with new, important functions, for which I congratulate him. In addition, I cannot refrain from expressing a feeling of sadness, as the Conference is losing in him a colleague who has left a profound mark on its work, owing to his personal qualities as well as his comprehensive knowledge of disarmament questions. As a member of the Group of Seven - which I myself would call the Group of Wise Men - he helped the Conference to find the most effective methods. All of us will remember his friendship, his advice and his ability to go deeply into problems from all angles. On behalf of us all, I wish Ambassador and Mrs. van Schaik every success professionally, and personal happiness.

(The President)

I now intend to suspend the plenary meeting in order to continue the informal consultations on the Conference's draft report to the General Assembly. I invite delegations to assemble for an informal plenary meeting at 3 p.m. this afternoon.

The meeting was suspended at 12.45 p.m. and resumed at 6.45 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The 531st plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament is resumed. We shall continue the consideration and adoption of the report to the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The draft report is contained in documents CD/WP.370, CD/WP.370/Add.1 and CD/WP.371 to 374 in their second revisions, as orally amended.

The secretariat will fill in the blanks that have been left in the text of the draft report. Any minor corrections that delegations may wish to make to the text, including questions of consistency between the translations, should be brought directly to the notice of the secretariat, which will take the necessary steps.

I put before the Conference for adoption the draft report to the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly contained in the documents that I have just listed. Are there any delegations wishing to speak before we adopt the report? I see none. If there are no objections, I shall take it that the Conference adopts its annual report to the United Nations General Assembly.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mr. Batsanov, has asked to speak. You have the floor, Sir.

Mr. BATSANOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translated from Russian): First of all I would like to welcome the new head of the Kenyan delegation, Ambassador Thomas Ogada, and assure him of our readiness for close co-operation. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our great regret at the forthcoming move to another post of Ambassador Fan Guoxiang of China, whose diplomatic experience and skill we shall miss. I am eagerly awaiting the opportunity of meeting his successor, Ambassador Hou Zhitong.

Today the Conference on Disarmament is closing its regular session, and in this connection the Group of Socialist Countries, on behalf of which I have the honour to make this statement, would like to convey its judgements on some of the work we have done. In the view of the group, the results achieved cannot all be assessed in the same way. Progress in various fields was uneven. Of course, the causes of this dissimilar progress - in some cases the regrettable absence of any progress - were very varied. At the same time, the Conference on Disarmament began its work this year in more favourable circumstances than in previous years. The socialist States are making an important contribution to the development of these positive trends, seeking to

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enrich the disarmament process with new ideas. This can be seen from the documents issuing from the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty held in July in Bucharest, and in particular the document entitled "For a stable and secure Europe free of nuclear and chemical weapons, for a substantial reduction of armed forces, armaments and military spending".

In a word, hopes were high that on some questions under consideration at the Conference significant progress could be made. However - and we sincerely regret this - many of these hopes were dashed. We are convinced that an objective analysis of the causes that held back progress confirms that despite the truly complex nature of disarmament problems and the real technical, international legal and other problems involved in work on disarmament agreements, the main prime mover in the negotiations is still the political will of participants and their desire to seek mutually acceptable solutions. Unfortunately, on most of the items on the agenda of the Conference we have simply nothing to boast about. This is prompting growing concern amongst the members of the Group. Concern both about the substantive work being done in specific areas of disarmament, and about the future of the very concept of multilateral disarmament negotiations. Meanwhile, if the crisis of the global echelon of disarmament negotiations centred on the Conference on Disarmament develops, this can eventually bring about adverse changes in the global security structure, thereby negatively affecting efforts being undertaken at the bilateral and regional levels.

Whilst expressing regret at the lack of substantive results on many items on the agenda of the Conference, the delegations of the socialist countries at the same time welcome the further progress that has been achieved in the talks on a chemical weapons ban, although here too we feel that not all our expectations have been realized. The Conference on Disarmament received a strong political impetus from the Paris meeting on chemical weapons, where 149 States called for the conclusion of the convention at the earliest date. The increase in the number of observers in the Ad hoc Committee on CW this year as a result of the call made in the Paris Declaration is a positive development in our view. The creation of an appropriate organizational framework for considering questions relating to the chemical weapons ban at the Conference on Disarmament in the context of the Ad hoc Committee on CW also played a constructive role. Thanks to the able leadership of the Ad hoc Committee by Ambassador Pierre Morel of France, as well as the painstaking efforts made by the chairmen of the working groups, much valuable work was done. This not only covered important technical details which are vital for the convention, but also made it possible to expand the search for political agreement on a number of key problems. In the view of the socialist group, we now have all the requisite elements in the Ad hoc Committee on CW for a breakthrough in the very near future. We call upon all participants in the negotiations to step up their efforts, to display a constructive spirit and show reasonable compromise, and to make maximum use of the inter-sessional period in order that the many years' work on a CW ban should finally be crowned with success at the 1990 session of the Conference. In this connection the members of the group believe that an important role in speeding up work on the convention must be played by confidence-building measures.

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They welcome the continuing process of providing data in accordance with the USSR's draft memorandum of 18 February 1988 and the arrangements proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany, and also take an active part in it. Here, speaking as the representative of the USSR, I would like to inform the members of the Conference that the Soviet Union is finalizing the preparation of data for multilateral exchange along the lines proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany in CD/828, with a view to publication; information on the subject will be submitted to the Conference on Disarmament.

I would now like to return to the statement of the Group of Socialist Countries. The group also regards the prevention of an arms race in outer space as a priority issue in the work of the Conference. During the 1989 session the delegations of our countries sought to intensify the work in the Conference in this field and make it more concrete. This was the aim of the working papers from Mongolia and Poland and three working papers from the German Democratic Republic submitted to the Ad hoc Committee this year. Although substantial progress is unfortunately some distance away, we believe that this year certain encouraging trends towards a more businesslike approach in the consideration of the problems on our agenda were visible in the Ad hoc Committee. These trends should be developed by making good use of the potential for points of contact so that next year we can identify a number of subjects for thorough elaboration. In our view it is time for the Ad hoc Committee on Outer Space to move beyond the phase of general abstract debate, and to stop going round in circles discussing the same old subjects without any prospect of finding a solution. This body of the Conference on Disarmament should not be an arena for unproductive confrontational polemics or rival tactical gambits in a diplomatic game, but should become a forum for meaningful consideration of the military, strategic, scientific, technological and legal aspects of problems relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space. This will obviously require, on the basis of existing realities, agreement on a generally acceptable basis, the achievement of true concensus and the taking into account of the positions of all sides. In the assessment of the delegations of the socialist countries, the devising of measures to increase confidence and openness in States' outer space activities could provide a foundation for this purpose. They would thus constitute the first tangible steps towards realization of the more ambitious long-term objective of keeping outer space free from weapons.

The socialist countries, noting with satisfaction the growing support in the Ad hoc Committee for the need for in-depth study of the concepts of measures to build confidence and openness, believe that a promising direction for work would be consideration of the prospects of using space facilities to promote the evaluation of compliance with multilateral agreements in the area of confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament and to monitor developments in areas of tension. Approaches to such a task have been proposed specifically in the working paper submitted to the current session by the USSR on the establishment of an international space monitoring agency, and in the French paper on space and verification, relating to a proposal for the establishment of an agency for the processing and interpretation of satellite imagery. Despite the considerable differences between these proposals, we believe that they contain converging or parallel ideas which can be developed

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further. The Group of Socialist Countries is convinced that, despite the considerable importance of the Soviet-American dialogue on the problems of preventing an arms race in outer space, and without prejudice to the way the dialogue may develop, the Conference on Disarmament is the very forum where meaningful multilateral efforts can be made in order to prevent outer space from being turned into a new arena for military confrontation.

Allow me to express the gratitude of the Group of Socialist Countries to the distinguished Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on outer space, Ambassador Bayart, whose diplomatic skill, wisdom and tact eventually made it possible to find compromise solutions and thus successfuly complete the work of the Ad hoc Committee. We also remember Ambassador Bayart's effective guidance of the work of the Conference in July. Many delegations will, I think, agree that under the able guidance of Ambassador Bayart the Ad hoc Committee took a further step forward during the 1989 session.

The Group of Socialist Countries attaches special significance to the nuclear issues - cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, prevention of nuclear war, and above all the comprehensive prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. The group regrets that it was not possible to establish subsidiary bodies under any of these agenda items.

The Group of Socialist Countries fully supported the consultations conducted by Ambassador Yamada of Japan on the establishment of an ad hoc committee on the nuclear test ban. These consultations seemed to be close to completion, but they too have so far failed to produce any tangible results. We hope that the efforts to reach agreement on a mandate for the ad hoc committee will not be broken off with the departure of Ambassador Yamada, and we request you, Sir, to pursue them during the inter-sessional period. We are convinced that in this area a real possibility exists for a reasonable compromise, which might be based on the proposal made by Czechoslovakia. This would allow the member States of the Conference to initiate specific discussion of the problem of banning nuclear tests in an ad hoc committee set up for the purpose at the very next session.

On the credit side of the 1989 session we should count the work of the Ad hoc Group of Seismic Experts, which finalized its agreement on the initial concepts for a global system for the international exchange of seismic data and decided to start the next stage of the large-scale experiment on the exchange of level II seismic data in January 1990.

Support in the Conference is growing all the time for the idea that an ad hoc group of scientific experts should be set up to prepare practical proposals for a system to monitor the non-conduct of nuclear tests, as well as the creation of an international system for the global monitoring of radiation safety using space communications. The detailed and concrete specific proposals made to this effect by the delegation of the German Democratic Republic were met with interest. The Group of Socialist States shares the widely held view in the Conference that it would be appropriate for this multilateral forum to consider issues related to nuclear disarmament and the

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prevention of nuclear war. It supported the draft mandates proposed by the Group of 21 for ad hoc committees under agenda items 2 and 3, and regrets that the Group of Western Countries blocked a positive decision on this score.

The Group of Socialist Countries expresses its regret that the Ad hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament was unable to make tangible progress in elaborating the draft programme. We are confident that the Ad hoc Committee will resume its work to settle outstanding issues in the very near future, when prospects for progress in this regard are brighter. Of course, we proceed from the assumption that this item will remain on the agenda of the Conference. The Group of Socialist Countries expresses its gratitude to Ambassador Alfonso García Robles of Mexico, who has been the Chairman of the Ad hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme since 1981, for his able guidance of the work of the Ad hoc Committee, his great tact and the considerable diplomatic skill he has demonstrated. We wish him good health and well-being.

The setting up of an ad hoc committee on a given topic is no guarantee that the problem will be rapidly solved. For instance, the Ad hoc Committee on Radiological Weapons is re-established year in, year out, yet no substantive progress has been achieved towards international agreement thereon. The time has come at last to take steps to overcome the stagnation of negotiations in this field. We believe that the only basis for that is an objective look at existing realities, with due regard for those elements where the positions of the parties concerned coincide. This would make it possible to work towards a single approach to the solution of key issues concerning the prohibition of radiological weapons and the need to prevent attacks on nuclear facilities. Our group reaffirms its readiness to co-operate fully with all delegations in order to reach agreement on effective international instruments to provide non-nuclear-weapon States with guarantees against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. I would like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the Group of Socialist Countries to the Chairmen of the Ad hoc Committees on Radiological Weapons and Negative Security Assurances, Ambassador Oswaldo de Rivero of Peru and Ambassador Ali Shams Ardekani of Iran.

The Group of Socialist Countries is convinced of the necessity and desirability of improving the effectiveness of the Conference on Disarmament and rationalizing its work. The proposals which were made back in October 1987 at the meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty are well known. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the socialist States who have attended the Conference on Disarmament have referred to these proposals. Quite recently the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia, J. Johanes, reminded us of some of them in his statement in the plenary of the Conference on 17 August. In proposing a whole package of measures which our Group feels would enable the Conference to carry out its role as the sole multilateral disarmament forum, the socialist States, of course, never considered that these ideas should be viewed on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. On the contrary, they were put forward in order that what was acceptable for all could be selected after careful discussion and analysis. We proceed from the assumption that improving the effectiveness

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of our work is a common concern, and we hope that due attention will be paid to this aspect at the 1990 session. This is exactly why our group has drawn up and circulated an informal document listing possible subjects for discussion. We are encouraged by the positive response received from a number of delegations. This reaction gives us grounds to hope that they might serve as a basis for the resumption of substantive discussion next year in an appropriate format.

In the view of the members of our group, multilateral diplomatic machinery on disarmament, one representative of which is the Conference, has a great creative potential which we are only beginning to use. The States members of our group for their part are ready to do everything they possibly can in order to allow the Conference to fully attain its goals.

In conclusion, I would like on behalf of the group and on my own behalf to express to you, Sir, our sincere gratitude for your able guidance of the Conference at this important and difficult final stage. Your outstanding qualities were manifested especially clearly today, on the final day of our work, when, thanks to your contribution, we managed to get out of what was a far from simple situation. We would also like to thank the Secretary-General of the Conference, Ambassador Komatina, his deputy, Ambassador Berasategui, all their colleagues in the secretariat, the interpreters and the translators for the excellent way in which the Conference was organized and serviced this year.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for his statement, and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the representative of Japan, Ambassador Yamada.

Mr. YAMADA (Japan): Mr. President, I could not let this occasion pass without expressing, on behalf of the Group of Western Countries, our deepest gratitude to you for your marvellous leadership in making it possible to close this year's session successfully with the adoption of the annual report of the Conference to the General Assembly of the United Nations. I am very grateful to you for bearing with me during the prolonged consultations on the draft of the report. I would also like to express our deep appreciation to your deputy, Mr. Hilale, for his excellent work in conducting successful consultations on substantive parts of our annual report.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the representative of Japan for his statement, and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. I now give the floor to the representative of Iran.

Mr. MASHHADI (Islamic Republic of Iran): Due to the lateness of the hour and the fact that this is the last day of work for the CD in 1989 - one of the main reasons why my delegation joined the consensus to adopt the annual report which has just been adopted - my intervention will be very brief and will focus on our reservation regarding the report and will seek to shed light on some points and clarify certain matters.

(Mr. Mashhadi, Islamic Republic of Iran)

Regarding CD/WP.370, under section D, paragraph 10, which was the subject of intensive consultations for the best part of the past two and a half weeks, there are certain points which should be taken into consideration. The first point is that this part of the report deals with the technical section of the annual report, and this is the reason why it should be factual and reflect the facts. But here we are facing certain ambiguities, and to my delegation these are not the complete facts, and the report in this section could be more factual than it is. In paragraph 10, equal footing has somehow been given to those delegations and States whose applications were approved by consensus of the Conference and the State whose application was rejected. In the formal plenary of the Group of 21 the application and the question was raised, and according to the papers the application was rejected, or, in the jargon of the Conference, no consensus emerged regarding that application. Therefore, it is not factual to have all those applications and treat them on an equal footing while we have approval and rejection.

The other point is that if the plenary is going to be open to the public, there are many delegations and States and representatives of non-governmental organizations and individuals who can attend - and I mean that they have attended in the sense of presence. Either we have to refer to the names of all those who were present during the course of the plenary sessions of the Conference on Disarmament in 1989, or not - to be selective. Or we have a kind of decision-making process and decision-making mechanism - if the shoe fits one foot it should fit the other. If we are going to refer to all, we have to refer to all, or if we have a certain decision-making process or mechanism we have to obey that and we have to respect that. We joined the consensus for the reasons I mentioned before, and also because of the reading of my delegation that, in paragraph 10, attendance simply means presence - nothing more. And of course, this does not give any right to others who say that because their names were there in the past they should also be there in the future - the Conference will and should follow the rules of procedure as it has done in the past, and of course, my delegation reserves the right for 1990 to explain some of its positions. The other point is that my delegation has sought not to politicize this matter. The Conference on Disarmament is dealing with vital matters pertaining to the very existence of humanity and, therefore, our report in this part should be factual and should not be politicized.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his statement, and I invite the secretariat to take note of his reservations. I now call on the representative of Peru.

Mr. CALDERON (Peru) (translated from Spanish): Allow me to take the floor very briefly to say something of substance on behalf of the Group of 21. You, Sir, have the very sincere appreciation of the members of the Group for your perseverance and the optimism you have always shown, your great patience and dedication which have been an example to us all throughout this month of your presidency. This effort which has earned our thanks also extends to your delegation, which has always been ready to co-operate with us in the quest for more satisfactory solutions for all. It is to be welcomed that the efforts made by the delegations represented in the Conference and the

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regional groups have led to a successful conclusion of our work. Of course the results are illusory, but at least we in the Group of 21 hold out hope of better days, and at all events we are persuaded that multilateralism has won a victory this evening. I would also like to mention the interpreters, translators and other services and very particularly - I repeat, very particularly - Ambassador Komatina, the Secretary-General of the Conference, the Deputy Secretary-General, Ambassador Berasategui, and other members of the secretariat for their valuable assistance, which has been timely, and has also been of major help to our work.

The PRESIDENT (translated from French): I thank the representative of Peru for his statement, and for his kind words addressed to the Chair and to the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco. Are there any other delegations wishing to take the floor? I see none. Permit me now to make my closing statement as President of the Conference.

We have come to the end of the 1989 session of the Conference on Disarmament after six months of sustained work, sometimes difficult negotiations, laborious consultations in search of a compromise for the implementation of the mandate of the Conference. I do not intend to draw up an exhaustive or detailed summary of our collective efforts. On the one hand, the Chairmen of the ad hoc committees have ably covered matters relating to their particular fields, and on the other many delegations have dwelt thereon, expressing their views on subjects where progress was recorded and also on matters where consensus could not be reached. The aim of this final statement is not so much to make a judgement on a session of intense activity, as to draw a number of conclusions.

The first conclusion is that, despite a few hitches here and there, we had an excellent spirit this session. Our work was carried out in a very calm way underpinned by everybody's resolve to achieve the aims of the Conference. This is an encouraging observation based on two factors: on the one hand the easing of tension which has for some time now been a feature of international relations, and on the other the new spirit which informs the East-West dialogue. Both these factors were unanimously highlighted throughout the session.

My second point relates to the progress recorded in the chemical weapons negotiations. The extraordinary Paris consensus undoubtedly gave political impetus to our work; yet it should be recognized that this impetus did not lead to all the effects we had hoped for. Nevertheless, a movement has begun and it must be sustained by continuously renewed back-up. We are convinced that the negotiations which will continue during the inter-sessional period will bring us still closer to the long-awaited aim, the burgeoning of the convention on chemical weapons.

The third comment relates to a subject whose high priority is unanimously acknowledged - the nuclear test ban. High hopes were raised from the very beginning of our session by the statements made on the terms of the mandate for an ad hoc committee on the subject. The consultations conducted by succeeding presidents and, in particular Ambassador Yamada of Japan, kept us

(The President)

in suspense until the last few days of the session. It is true that the results produced by these consultations did not entirely come up to our expectations. But despite the legitimate disappointment we feel, we must note that the effort put into the search for a consensus on the mandate for the ad hoc committee was not wasted. The efforts made, and in particular those of Ambassador Yamada, made it possible to reduce the areas of disagreement. Thus we need to build on this achievement in order to pursue this search for consensus as soon as the next session begins.

My final comment will be to express great satisfaction. A satisfaction engendered by a twofold observation, which itself is the fruit of an analysis of the dozens of statements made throughout the session. First, the constantly renewed commitment on the part of all delegations to the principles which underlie our mission in this forum; and secondly the reiteration of the confidence placed in our Conference, and the highlighting of its prime and vital role in working towards complete and general disarmament under effective international control.

The report we have just adopted is an achievement to which all the members of the Conference made a valuable contribution in a responsible and fair spirit. I hasten to express my gratitude to them. The report also reflects the progress we have made during our work. And since it also reveals our disappointments, it takes on a human dimension and becomes an expression of hope, the hope to which my sovereign, His Majesty King Hassan II, gave voice in condensed form when he stated that disarmament should not be simply a virtue, but should become a necessity.

Allow me to express my thanks for the efforts, the skill and the great dedication of the chairmen of the ad hoc committees, Ambassadors Pierre Morel for chemical weapons, Ardekani for negative security arrangements, de Rivero for radiological weapons and Bayart for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and finally Ambassador García Robles for the comprehensive programme of disarmament. I am pleased to speak on behalf of you all in congratulating them on the effectiveness with which they carried out the tasks given to them by the Conference. I would also like to express my gratitude to Ambassador Komatina, the Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to Ambassador Berasategui, the Deputy Secretary-General, and to the whole of the secretariat for their valuable assistance to me. Their efficient contribution greatly facilitated my task. Of course, I could not forget to thank our friends the interpreters and those back-up staff who work in the shadows, the translators and the technical services. A special word of thanks to the interpreters who are going to be working until midnight this evening. Finally I would like to say that for my country and myself it has been a great honour to preside over the Conference on Disarmament during this last month of its annual session. As you know, the tasks of the President for August will extend until we resume our work next February. That is why I would like to tell you that I will be fully available throughout the inter-sessional period, both here in Geneva and in New York in the second half of October. I will be available to all members of the Conference for any consultations they wish to conduct in anticipation of the next annual session of the Conference on Disarmament.

(The President)

These, then, were the few closing comments I wished to share with you. I have no other matters to discuss before the closure of this annual session of the Conference on Disarmament. Before I close the session, I would like to remind you that the next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Tuesday, 6 February 1990, at 10 a.m. As agreed by the Conference when adopting the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons contained in document CD/952, in accordance with paragraph 14 (c), the Ad hoc Committee will hold a session of limited duration between 16 January and 1 February 1990. I would also like to remind you that open-ended consultations of the Ad hoc Committee will be conducted between 28 November and 14 December this year.

The meeting rose at 7.25 p.m.